

## PROPOSAL EVALUATION

### *Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant*

PIN	4716	COUNTY	San Joaquin
APPLICANT	NE San Joaquin Co. Groundwater Banking Authority	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$498,468
PROJECT TITLE	Eastern San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$889,131

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Define and integrate water management strategies and establish a Management Action Plan to implement the East Basin Integrated Conjunctive Use Program. This IRWM Plan will include: Alternatives development, screening, and prioritization, modeling and impact assessment, programmatic environmental documentation, development and adoption of the Management Action Plan, comprehensive stakeholder outreach, agency and fund coordination.

**WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.**

**Score:** 15

**Comment:** The proposed work will lead to identification of the best available projects and management actions to satisfy the applicant's long-term water management objectives. The IRWM planning work will be completed by November 2006. The purpose of the IRWMP is to define and prioritize integrated water resource strategies for the "*East Basin Integrated Conjunctive Use Program*" (ICUP), which includes improving groundwater quality, preventing saline intrusion, and restoring habitat. The ICUP will implement the resulting comprehensive, prioritized menu of projects and actions to ensure the sustainability of groundwater resources in the San Joaquin region. The budget and schedule relate directly to the work plan. Although they are detailed and reasonable, there are some minor discrepancies that could be corrected.

**DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 5

**Comment:** The region for the IRWMP was well defined and documented and is described as the northwestern corner of the San Joaquin Hydrologic Region. The major rivers in this region are the San Joaquin, Cosumnes, Mokelumne, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, Chowchilla, and Fresno. Within these boundaries both groundwater and surface water is used. Environmental issues and impacts were addressed. The region includes a diverse range of water-related interests and objectives and is considered by the applicant as the practical limit, which maximizes the level of regional integration possible. Common management issues are addressed.

**OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score:** 10

**Comment:** The main planning objective is water banking with conjunctive use. This IRWMP will address growth, competing demand, management structure, the delta, limited surface water sources, overdraft, saline intrusion, and flood protection issues. These regional objectives will help meet statewide issues. The planning for this proposal was well thought out and documented. Past, present, and future objectives and milestones are detailed in the proposal.

**INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score:** 10

**Comment:** Multiple water management strategies have been and are being developed. Local water supply strategies include conjunctive use, water use efficiency, additional storage, flood protection, water conservation, and recycling. These strategies will result in meeting regional and statewide planning objectives as well as address both the current water management issues and the changing conditions in the future while protecting the region's water resources.

**IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score:** 8

**Comment:** A schedule for implementing the IRWMP has been developed, but no schedule beyond IRWMP adoption was found. Project implementation includes strategy integration, financing plan, developing a management action plan, and stakeholder outreach. The applicant will also work closely with State, local, and federal agencies. The applicant is the RWMG responsible for implementation of the IRWMP. It is unclear how the applicant will monitor the performance of the IRWMP.

**IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score:** 8

**Comment:** The applicant values the consensus based approach to groundwater management and strives to coordinate, integrate, and mutually benefit from the groundwater management efforts of its member agencies and those with vested interest in the social, economic, and environmental viability of the region. Improved storage, recharge, and conveyance will benefit the region as well as the State. The impacts of many of the projects were lacking detail.

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**DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** Extensive data appears to be available. Data includes stream flows, groundwater elevations, and surface water flow. It is unclear how much data is available and the areas the data covers. The applicant will update the regional Dynflow screening model to compare expected performance of alternative combinations of projects and management alternatives. It is unclear whether data used will be based on regional data. The types of data to be used were not described. Many technical studies were listed.

**DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** The applicant's QA/QC Plan addresses various procedures and protocols such as monitoring and sampling preparations, sample collection procedures, chain-of-custody procedures, sample transport, laboratory procedures and methods, and data validation and reporting. The San Joaquin County Groundwater Data Center is the primary public outreach tool for groundwater basin health and ICUP performance. Through the internet, water users including County and agency staff, industry professionals, decision makers, and the general public will have access to groundwater data and historic semiannual reports. What is unclear is if the data will be available to be integrated into DWR and SWRCB statewide data management efforts. More detail is needed to fully understand the intent.

**STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** Representatives from over 40 agencies and interest groups have participated in both the development of the applicant's GWMP and the IRWMP. The applicant has regular meetings that are open to the public and has provided a consensus-based forum of local public water interests to work cooperatively. Environmental justice is not addressed. A process to identify and include additional stakeholders is not addressed.

**DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 2

**Comment:** The applicant states that all communities in the "Groundwater Management Area" are impacted equally. However, the applicant does not say whether there are any DACs within the region, nor was there any discussion on any documentation to the water quality and/or supply needs of any DACs.

**RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 4

**Comment:** Local planning documents would be used to help form the IRWMP. The applicant was not clear as to whether the information will be used to develop regional water management strategies that address the needs of all the local agencies within the region.

**AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score:** 5

**Comment:** The applicant has and will continue to include coordination with local, State, and federal agencies. Representatives from over 40 agencies and interest groups have participated in the development of the applicant as an agency and the IRWMP.

**TOTAL SCORE: 79**